

Polka Theatre announce their spring and summer season for 2012

With the world coming to London this summer, Polka has prepared a new season of shows, free events and workshops fit for a gold medal! There's much to celebrate in the coming months and with brand new shows and a returning best-seller, Polka have made sure that the south London venue is the place to be.

Before everything becomes about sport, Polka is excited to be bringing a classic novel by the masterful storyteller and author of *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo to the stage with their production, ***Twist of Gold***. With traditional live music, dance and a typically terrific story by Morpurgo, this adaptation will transport audiences from Ireland to America in a story of friendship and the unbreakable bond between a brother and sister.

There's more music to come in June as Polka gears up for the Olympic celebrations with ***Run! A Sports Day Musical***. This new show by Lisa Evans will feature music by Polka favourite Julian Butler and is set to be a fun, heart-warming tale of four friends as they compete in their own race to win the gold medal. Directed by Adam Penford, fresh from recent productions at The National Theatre (Director of *Island*, Associate Director of *One Man Two Guvnors*) this is the perfect summer show for 7 – 11 years.

Accompanying Polka's Olympic celebrations is the final year of their popular story-writing competition, **Writing the World**. Specifically aimed at children of primary school age, acclaimed author **Floella Benjamin** will join young writers as they use London as inspiration for their own short stories.

Polka is delighted to be bringing a fresh and unique show to the early years audience in the Adventure Theatre this season with a new production for 2 – 5 years, ***Inside Out***. Using the world around us and the world that we create in our imagination as a stimulus, Polka have worked closely with the children from a local children's centre to create a show full of surprises and audience participation.

Summer will be completed in the Main Theatre with the welcome return of ***Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play*** following a record-breaking international tour. Visiting shows throughout the season will also entertain all tastes including those rock star wannabes with ***Kid Carpet and the Noisy Animals*** in June. Polka will also invite visitors to enjoy their facilities throughout the season with free events taking place in the building including the **London Children's Book Swap** in February, a **Pop-Up Polka Fair** with handmade crafts and gifts on the first Sunday of each month and a free **Polka Sports Day** on Sunday 24 June.

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Notes to editors

- For press tickets, interviews or images please contact Elise on 020 8545 8354 or email elise@polkatheatre.com
- For ticket prices and times please visit www.polkatheatre.com
- For further information on Polka's education projects and events please contact Elise